

001 - 9 2001



# Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

551345

August 28, 2001

*Please see  
paragraph 3  
of the James  
associated  
press  
article*

Ms. A.L. Roth  
112 S. Temple Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89107

*Let's see  
the EPA  
report &  
then  
comment  
Before Roth*

Dear Ms. Roth:

Over the next several months the Secretary of Energy will carefully consider a large body of scientific documents, as well as the views of the public, and decide whether or not to recommend to the President that Yucca Mountain be developed to serve as our repository for spent nuclear fuel and high level radioactive waste. As you probably know, on August 21, 2001, the Department of Energy (Department) published a Federal Register notice (66 FR 43850) which scheduled public hearings and announced a closing date of September 20, 2001 for public comments on this possible recommendation by the Secretary. Your comments in response to this notice would be very much appreciated.

The Nuclear Waste Policy Act, as amended (the Act), establishes the Federal responsibility for the final disposition of spent nuclear fuel and high level radioactive waste in the United States. This responsibility includes 50 years of defense legacy wastes that have resulted from the development of nuclear weapons, spent fuel that has provided power for the United States Navy, spent fuel from the Nation's university research reactors, and spent fuel from the Nation's civilian reactors, which provide approximately twenty percent of our domestic electricity supply.

The Department has spent 20 years and over \$6.7 billion studying various means to fulfill the Federal responsibility. Since 1987, at the direction of the Act, the Department has been required to focus exclusively on the Yucca Mountain site. The result of this effort is contained within the Yucca Mountain Preliminary Site Suitability Evaluation (PSSE) and other scientific documents produced by the Department. The PSSE and these other supporting technical documents are available on the Internet (<http://ymp.gov>), or may be requested by telephone (1-800-967-3477).

The Secretary's recommendation regarding the Yucca Mountain site is an important intermediate step in the decades-long process for siting and developing a repository. If the Secretary determines that the scientific evaluation of the site indicates the site is suitable for development of a repository, he may then submit a recommendation for site development to the President. If



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THE NATION

## Hearings on Nuclear Site Challenged

From Associated Press

**LAS VEGAS** -- Nevada plans to ask a court to block the Energy Department from holding a series of public hearings on a proposed high-level nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain.

Bob Loux, executive director of the Nevada Agency for Nuclear Projects, charged Wednesday that the meetings are being held prematurely. The public meetings are one of the last steps before a recommendation on the site is made to President Bush.

The state will ask the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals to block the hearings because the final environmental impact studies have not been released by the agency, Loux said. "We don't think [public hearings] can take place until an environmental impact statement is done," Loux said. "If you don't know the impact, it's impossible to have public comment."

Federal officials said the meetings--Wednesday in Las Vegas, Sept. 12 in Pahrump and Sept. 13 in Amargosa Valley near the site, about 90 miles north of Las Vegas--remain on schedule.

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Please especially  
note:

Barbara Rock  
at 2nd hearing  
11/2 sample 8/9/01

Do Yucca  
with  
discovery  
near or  
protest  
keep under  
control  
grants

And not a word in your  
letter about the danger  
of this going across 42 states  
possible accidents, ~~the~~ probably  
accidents, not a word about  
the earthquakes out there,  
Your slanted letter had  
W Bush & the nuclear industry written all over it.

(2)